

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 037982

R 301152Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7231

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TWON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 794

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, MZ, PO

SUBJ: BANDA SPEAKS OUT ON BREAK IN PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BANDA CAUTIONED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MALAWI'S ACCESS TO BEIRA AND NACALA PORTS. HE ASSURED WHITE PORTUGUESE NATIONS IN MALAWI THAT THEY HAD NOTHING TO FEAR AND CALLED UPON MOZAMBIQUE AFRICANS TO FORM UNITED FRONT. END SUMMARY.

2. ADDRESSING THE PRESS IN ZOMBA JULY 29, PRESIDENT BANDA EMPHASIZED THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO DENY MALAWI ACCESS TO MOZAMBIQUE PORTS. MALAWI INTENDS TO CONTINUE TRADE WITH AND THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE DESPITE CLOSURE OF PORTUGUESE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE IN MALAWI. PORTUGUES CANNOT CLOSE

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OFF THIS TRADE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE "UNCIVILIZED" FOR THE TO

DO SO. IF PORTUGUESE DO CLOSE TRAFFIC THEY WILL BE MAKING MIS-
TAKE AND MALAWI WILL "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT IT.

GEM BANDA STRONGLY ASSURED WHITE PORTUGUESE LIVING OR TRADING
IN MALAWI THAT THEY HAVE NO CAUSE FOR WORRY AS LONG AS THEY
OBEY THE LAWS OF MALAWI. AT SAME TIME HE DESCRIBED PORTUGUESE
ESCUDO AS "USELESS" CURRENCY AND SAID MALAWI FARMERS AND TRADERS
SHOULD DEMAND PAYMENT IN MALAWI KWACHA IF THEY MUST SELL TO
MOZAMBIQUE. HE WARNDDED MALAWI FARMERS AND TRADERS THAT WHEREEVER
POSSIBLE THEY SHOULD SELL PRODUCE TO GOM'S PARASTATAL AGRICULTURAL
MARKETING AGENCY (ADMARC) RATHER THAN TO PORTUGUESE.

4. PRESIDENT BANDA SAID PEOPLE FROM MOZAMBIQUE NORTH OF ZAMBEZI
ARE THE SAME PEOPLE AS MALAWIANS AND THEY SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT
ARTIFICIAL BOUNDARIES MADE BY BRITISH AND PORTUGUESE COL-
ONIALISTS. REFERRING TO FRELIMO, COREMO AND NAMO AS THREE MOZ-
AMBIQUE AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES IN MALAWI, BANDA CALLED ON
THEM TO STOP BICKERING AND FORM UNITED FRONT TO PRESENT TO
PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. HE
ADDED THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THESE GROUPS COULD "NEVER
BE PREVENTED FROM GOING BACK TO MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH MALAWI."
FARBER

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